

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 - 27, as set forth below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the
Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ A method for preventing fraud in coin-operated or banknote-operated vending machines, in particular vending machines dispensing goods or services, in which provision of said goods or services is initiated once the sale transaction after inserting coins and/or banknotes is initiated when a of sufficient credit value are inserted is reached and the said service is provided, characterised in that the method comprising the steps of:

determining the denominations of the coins or banknotes i.e. the number type, is determined for each transaction numerical procedure, wherein the number types or denomination types denominations that were inserted until a specified credit value (K) was reached are determined[[,]] :

that counting the number types or denomination types are added in number type denominations in denomination counters (Z)[[,]] :

that generating a signal (F) when a predetermined limit criterion of successive equivalent denomination coins or banknotes is reached; a signal (F) is generated, and

that passing the signal (F) is passed to a logic circuit; and

activating a time element (T) is activated that at least partially prevents ~~[[the]]~~ operation of the vending machine for a duration (T_{inop}).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the initial value (Z_x) of the ~~number type counters~~ denomination counter (Z) in which the signal (F) is generated is adjustable ~~can be adjusted~~.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that further comprising~~ resetting said denomination counter (Z) when ~~with~~ successive coins and/or banknotes are inserted having numerical procedures involving different denominations; ~~i.e. with different number types, the number type denomination counter (Z) is reset.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ A method for preventing fraud in coin-operated or banknote-operated vending machines, in particular vending machines dispensing goods or services, in which provision of said goods or services is initiated once ~~the sale transaction after inserting~~ coins and/or banknotes ~~is initiated when a~~ of sufficient credit value are inserted is reached ~~and the said service is provided, characterised in that~~ the method comprising the steps of:

determining the coin or banknote denominations, ~~i.e. the number type, is determined for each transaction~~ numerical procedure, wherein the ~~types of~~ denominations of coins or banknotes that were inserted until a specified credit value (K) was reached are determined~~[[,]]~~;

that calculating the frequency with which ~~identical~~ equivalent denominations of coins or banknotes were inserted ~~in the case of~~ during a plurality of sale transactions ~~is determined;~~

that generating a signal (F) when a preset limit criterion of equivalent denomination frequency is reached; ~~a signal (F) is generated, and~~

that passing the signal (F) ~~is passed~~ to a logic circuit; and

activating a time element (T) ~~is activated~~ that at least partially prevents the operation of the vending machine for a duration (T_{inop}).

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the time element (T) comprises a time function ($TF_{(p)i}$) whose behavior (duration, nature and manner) ~~can be~~ is described by parameters.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein the step of activating the logic circuit, i.e. the time element (T) further comprises preventing, acts in such a way on a coin or banknote checking device that the acceptance of coins or banknotes of this value~~ a specific denomination is prevented for a duration (T_{inop}).

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the duration (T_{inop}) of the time element (T) is adjustable ~~can be adjusted~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the duration (T_{inop}) of the time element (T) has an incremental function, ~~wherein whereby~~ the duration time in the case of successive attempts to commit fraud is in each case extended.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the further comprising measuring a time interval (T_v) between two successive sale transactions; is measured and~~

generating a signal (F) that prevents the operation of the vending machine for a duration (T_{inop}) that if a preset time (T_{v-v}) is not reached in one ~~[[or]]~~ of a predetermined number (A_v) of sale transactions (ΣT_v), ~~a signal (F) is generated that prevents the operation of the vending machine and consequently the sales for a duration (T_{inop}).~~

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein the times~~ a time interval (T_v) between two successive sale transactions is

measured and, ~~[[that]]~~ in the case of several successive sale transactions, a ~~[[their]]~~ total time (T_{vs}) is determined, further comprising:

~~[[that]]~~ comparing the time interval (T_{vs}) ~~is compared~~ to a limiting value ($(T_{max})_n$), and

~~[[that]]~~ generating the signal (F) if ~~[[this]]~~ the limiting value is not reached ~~a signal (F)~~
~~is generated that prevents the operation of the vending machine and consequently the sales for a~~
~~duration (T_{inop}).~~

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 9, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ wherein the time (T_{v-v}) ~~and/or ($(T_{max})_n$)~~ is adjustable ~~can be adjusted~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ maximum limiting values ($M_{i\ max}$) as well as (T_{max}) are determined
dynamically and independently via a number (A_v) of considered sale transactions and a ~~[[the]]~~
future limiting theoretical value is determined via an incremental value ($\Delta M, \Delta T$).

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ further comprising generating the signal (F) if a ~~[[the]]~~ number of refund attempts over
several successive sale transactions is determined, and ~~that if a~~ preadjustable limiting value of
successive refund attempts is reached ~~then the fault signal (F) is generated~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ further comprising activating a circuit arrangement ~~is activated~~ through the signal (F) by
means of which an emergency notification/interference notification is initiated ~~by radio or~~
GSM/telephone.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ further comprising activating a photographic medium with, ~~preferably a digital camera,~~

is activated by the signal (F), by means of which an appearance of a [[the]] user of the vending machine is recorded.

Claim 16 (currently amended): [[Method]] The method according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the time (T_{v-v}) and/or $((T_{max})_n)$ is adjustable ~~can be adjusted~~.

Claim 17 (currently amended): [[Method]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the step of activating the logic circuit, i.e. the time element (T), acts in such a way ~~a coin or banknote checking device that~~ further comprises preventing the acceptance of coins or banknotes of a specific denomination ~~this value is prevented~~ for a duration (T_{inop}) .

Claim 18 (currently amended): [[Method]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the duration (T_{inop}) of the time element (T) is adjustable ~~can be adjusted~~.

Claim 19 (currently amended): [[Method]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the duration (T_{inop}) of the time element (T) has an incremental function, whereby wherein the time the duration (T_{inop}) in the case of successive attempts to commit fraud is in each case extended.

Claim 20 (currently amended): [[Method]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that the~~ further comprising measuring a time interval (T_v) between two successive sale transactions; ~~is measured and~~

generating a signal (F) that prevents the operation of the vending machine for a duration (T_{inop}) [[that]] if a preset time (T_{v-v}) is not reached in one [[or]] of a predetermined number (A_v) of sale transactions $(\sum T_v)$, ~~a signal (F) is generated that prevents the operation of the vending machine and consequently the sales for a duration~~ (T_{inop}) .

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ the times (T_v) between two successive sale transactions is measured, that in the
case of several successive sale transactions their total time (T_{vs}) is determined,

that the time (T_{vs}) is compared to a limiting value ($(T_{max})_n$), and

that if this limiting value is not reached ~~[[a]]~~ the signal (F) is generated that prevents the
operation of the vending machine and consequently the sales for a duration (T_{inop}).

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 20, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ the time (T_{v-v}) and/or ($(T_{max})_n$) ~~can be~~ are adjusted.

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ the maximum limiting values ($M_{i\ max}$) as well as (T_{max}) are determined
dynamically and independently via a number (A_v) of considered sale transactions and ~~[[the]]~~ a
future limiting theoretical value is determined via an incremental value (ΔM , ΔT).

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ the number of refund attempts over several successive sale transactions is
determined, and that if a preadjustable limiting value is reached then the fault signal (F) is
generated.

Claim 25 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ a circuit arrangement is activated through the signal (F) by means of which an
emergency notification/interference notification is initiated by radio or GSM/telephone.

Claim 26 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 4, ~~characterised~~
~~in that wherein~~ a photographic medium, ~~preferably a digital camera,~~ is activated by the signal
(F), by means of which the user of the vending machine is recorded.

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~[[Method]]~~ The method according to claim 21, ~~characterised~~
~~in that~~ wherein the time (T_{v-v}) and/or ($(T_{\max})_n$) ~~can be~~ are adjusted.

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